

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /072 W

----- 090421

R 181330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2917

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: GOI DENOUNCES FOREIGN PRESS COMMENT FROM DACCA

REF: NEW DELHI 16766

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. APPARENTLY RUFFLED BY WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT LEW SIMON'S REPORTING FROM DACCA, AND PARTICULARLY HIS DECEMBER 14 DISPATCH, THE GOI STRONGLY REITERATED ON DECEMBER 17 ITS PUBLIC STANCE TAKEN LAST WEEKEND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT OF INDIAN TROOPS ON THE INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER. THE CAPITAL PRESS GAVE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE COVERAGE TO THE STORY WHICH CITED GOI CONCERN AT "HIGHLY IMAGINARY AND CONCOCTED REPORTS"

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EMANATING FROM A SMALL GROUP OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

IN DACCA AND DESIGNED TO PROMOTE ILL-FEELING BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH. THE GOI SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME STORIES HAD BEEN FABRICATED ABOUT INDIAN ARMED INTERFERENCE IN BANGLADESH. SIMONS WAS DESCRIBED AS BREAKING ALL RECORDS IN TURNING OUT ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST FROM DACCA. THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS EVIDENT THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS FOUND IT INTOLERABLE THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND THAT THE BORDER SHOULD REMAIN FREE OF FRICTION AND TENSION. THE WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, HAD NEVER BEEN ANYWHERE NEAR THE BORDER, AND EVEN HIS INFORMANTS HAD NOT SEEN ANY INDIAN SOLDIER, "AT LEAST NOT ONE IN UNIFORM." (SIC).

2. THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT APPEARED THE RESULTS OF THE CALCUTTA MEETING BETWEEN THE CHIEFS OF THE BORDER SECURITY FORCES OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND OF THE VISIT TO NEW DELHI BY A HIGH-LEVEL BANGLADESH DELEGATION WERE NOT TO THE LIKING OF SOME FOREIGN ELEMENTS.

3. THE GOI STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WISHES TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT OF INDIAN TROOPS FROM THEIR PEACETIME LOCATIONS ANYWHERE ALONG THE INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER. THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH HAS BEEN GIVEN ADEQUATE AND SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD DIRECTLY AND THROUGH THE DELEGATION, LED BY MR JUSTICE SATTAR."

"PERSISTENT FALSE AND MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA AGAINST INDIA IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO HEIGHTEN TENSIONS, MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH. BUT BY ITS DISREGARD OF TRUTH AND COMMON SENSE SUCH PROPAGANDA IS UNLIKELY TO FULFILL ITS MISCHIEVOUS PURPOSE." UNQUOTE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT A SUITABLE TIME SUCH MISLEADING REPORTS FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN DACCA WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT.

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5. THE DAO IS REPORTING THE SAME STORY IN DEFENSE CHANNELS. DAO INCLUDES THE OBSERVATION THAT IT HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF ANY MAJOR INDIAN ARMY UNITS ON THE BANGLADESH BORDER.

6. COMMENT: WHY THE GOI RESPONDS WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER TO SIMON'S REPORTING IS UNCLEAR. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE HE (AND PRESUMABLY HIS DACCA SOURCES) HAVE

PIQUED THOSE IN HIGH PLACES.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, BG, IN  
**To:** STATE  
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